



Dan Hicks offers vinyl edition of 'Tangled Tales,' former Rolling Stones' guitarist Mick Taylor delivers crisp playing on solo DVD

By Kevin O'Hare April 13, 2010,



5:00AM

Dan Hicks

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, “Tangled Tales” (Surfdog – vinyl issue). 3 stars.

Mick Taylor Band, “New Morning: The Tokyo Concert” (Inakustik/MVD - DVD). 3 stars.

Rarities and Reissues

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, “Tangled Tales” (Surfdog – vinyl issue). 3 stars.

This is the limited edition vinyl edition of Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks’ 2009 album, with cover art and packaging designed by Dan the Man himself.

The man who brought us “I Scare Myself” and so many other great songs, delivers highlights here like the rapid-fire, very amusing “13-D,” the acoustic fire of “Who Are You?” and even a solid cover of Bob Dylan’s “Subterranean Homesick Blues.”

What you get is a lot of hot cowboy jazz, “outlaw swing music,” heavily influenced by one of Hicks’ musical heroes Django Reinhardt. Just check out “Ragtime Cowboy Joe,” or the scat singing harmonies on the tight title track. The record features an array of stellar guest musicians, including David Grisman, Charlie Musselwhite, swing guitarist Bruce Forman and the masterful violinist Richard Greene, among others.

As a bonus, the vinyl edition also includes a complimentary CD of the set.

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks play the Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton on Thursday, April 15.

DVD Spotlight

Mick Taylor Band, “New Morning: The Tokyo Concert” (Inakustik/MVD). 3 stars.

Famously known as the guy who joined the Rolling Stones’ after Brian Jones’ departure, played on some of their best albums and then quit the band, Mick Taylor has been true to himself throughout his career.

He’s still getting it done too, as can be heard on this modest but tasty show from Tokyo in 2009.

Whether playing the blues like the Willie Dixon song made famous by Muddy Waters, “You Shook Me,” or covering another guy he spent years playing with, Bob Dylan, on a fine rendition of “Blind

Willie McTell” Taylor is comfortable and exceedingly professional, even sharing the spotlight with his guitarist Denny Newman who turns in the original “Burying Ground.”

In terms of film production, there’s nothing fancy but the extras will entice Stones’ fans as Taylor discusses his musical career, including his decision to leave the legendary British rockers. And by the way, Taylor closes the concert with his own rendition of the Rolling Stones’ “No Expectations.”

Mick Taylor performs at the Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton on Thursday, April 29.

Rating Scale: One Star (poor) to Five Stars (a classic).

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